- Proposals have also been made for suitable legislative changes to improve the operating environment for industry.
- To remove infrastructure bottlenecks several incentives have been announced for improvement in power, roads, telecommunications and ports. The Golden Quadrilateral project and Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana have been launched.

Rise in trade deficit

173. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's trade deficit has increased during April-September, 2001 as compared to the corresponding period of 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for increase in trade deficit; and

(d) the details of measures taken by Government to reduce the trade deficit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) As per the provisional data furnished by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Calcutta, India's trade deficit during April-September, 2001-02 is placed at US $ 4.96 billion compared to US $ 4.08 billion during the corresponding period of previous year. The rise in trade deficit could be attributed to me negative growth of exports at 1.95% during the period. The slow down in US and other countries and the recent terrorist attacks on US have affected exports of many countries including India.

(d) Several measures to boost exports have been taken in order to provide competitive edge to Indian goods in the global market. Some of the recent measures taken to promote exports include reduction in the export credit rate for both pre-shipment and post-shipment, special financial package to manufacturer exporters with a export contract of Rs. 100 crores or above for a period of one year from October, 2001, extension of normal repatriation period from 180 days to 360 days for exports made to Latin American countries for a period of one year and upward revision of duty drawback rates on a number of product groups. Export performance is constantly being monitored and measures are being taken to reduce ti)e trade defecit.